

INTRODUCTION

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uring the past few years, we have seen a real change – a fundamental transformation – in relations between the United States and India, the world’s oldest and largest democracies. Thanks to the leadership of President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee, relations between our two countries have never been better. We are confident that under new Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s leadership, the relationship will be strengthened. This very positive on-going transformation has its roots in our common values and interests as democratic societies committed to political freedom, tolerance, representative government and the fight against terrorism.

The United States recognizes the vitality and importance of India to American interests, and we are fundamentally redefining every dimension of our bilateral relationship. As former Prime Minister Vajpayee said, India and the United States are "natural allies." India’s emergence as a rising world power and its development into a mature market economy are significant to the region and the world. As the largest country in South Asia, India has a vital role to play in helping to secure a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia.

The following pages provide a vivid and human account of the positive shift in cooperation between the United States and India across a broad range of areas, from promoting greater global stability and security, to improving standards of living and quality of life. Today we are conducting intensive and valuable diplomatic exchanges on economic policy, trade and investment, combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, strengthening regional security and the global war on terrorism. We are cooperating closely to limit global climate change and preserve the environment and energy resources. President Bush and former Prime Minister Vajpayee announced our commitment to strengthen cooperation in civilian space, civilian nuclear and high technology exchanges and expand our dialogue on missile defense as India moves to improve its export controls and nonproliferation policies. We are partnering on advances that will improve the way we fight disease and improve the quality of our food supply. Together we have opened new levels of cooperation on law enforcement and intelligence sharing. And, importantly, we have continued to



U.S. Secretary of State Powell says a real change is visible in U.S.-India relations

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pursue avenues for increasing people-to-people contact. One striking example of the tremendous growth in direct contact between our two great nations is that today India has more men and women studying in the United States than any other country in the world.

The U.S. relationship with India is based on mutual respect and the belief that a secure and prosperous world is a goal worth pursuing together. The United States is committed to intensifying its partnerships with India to meet this objective. This deepened relationship of equals will require attention and hard work. Both countries have demonstrated their willingness to move forward and work together to overcome any difficulties on the road ahead. U.S.-India relations are better today than at any time in the past, and both of our Governments are determined to keep it that way.

It is with great pleasure that Ambassador David Mulford and the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and Consulates in Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai present this publication in tribute to the new U.S.-India relationship and to our closer association with one of the world’s richest cultures.